

In the claims:

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

presenting a broadcast of a television program to a viewer from a programming service provider to a home entertainment system;

receiving viewer characteristic information about the viewer from the viewer at a programming guide server;

generating ratings at the programming guide server based at least in part on viewer feedback to the broadcasts by the programming guide server from other viewers;

cross-referencing the viewer characteristics received from the viewer to characteristics of other viewers, so that for each characteristic that the viewer has in common with another viewer, the rating for that other viewer is counted once, so ratings of other viewers with more characteristics in common with the viewer will be counted more than ratings of other viewers with less characteristics in common with the viewer;

assembling a list of available broadcasts for the viewer;

ranking the available broadcasts based on the received viewer characteristics and the cross-referenced ratings; and

providing the ranked list of available broadcasts and the cross-referenced ~~to the viewer~~ ratings of other television program broadcasts from the programming guide server to the viewer at the home entertainment system ~~based at least in part on received viewer feedback to the other broadcasts from other viewers, the ratings being generated by cross-referencing the viewer characteristics received from the viewer to characteristics of other viewers, so that for each characteristic that the viewer has in common with another viewer, the rating for that other viewer is counted once, so ratings of other viewers with~~

~~more characteristics in common with the viewer will be counted more than ratings of other viewers with less characteristics in common with the viewer.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein ratings from other viewers that do not have characteristics in common with the viewer are displayed differently than ratings from other viewers that do have characteristics in common with the viewer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a questionnaire to the viewer in response to a request from the viewer to provide feedback.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the request from the viewer comprises an identification of one from among a list of broadcasts recently viewed by the viewer.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising receiving answers to a questionnaire, the questionnaire including questions that are specific to the broadcast.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising offering an incentive to the viewer to encourage the viewer to provide feedback.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving viewer characteristic information comprises receiving viewer characteristic information about the viewer along with receiving feedback to the broadcast from the viewer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the viewer characteristic information includes hardware capabilities of an entertainment system of the viewer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein generating a rating comprises generating a rating using the viewer characteristic information to generate separate ratings for different categories of viewers.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing ratings to the viewer comprises providing ratings in real time using a feedback meter that is repeatedly updated as the viewer is watching the program that the ratings concern.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the generated rating of the broadcast to programming providers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing ratings of other broadcasts comprises providing the ratings along with a programming guide that includes the other broadcasts.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing ratings of other broadcasts comprises repeatedly updating provided ratings as viewer feedback is received.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising presenting a programming guide of the other broadcasts to the viewer wherein the other broadcasts are ranked based on the rating and on the viewer characteristic information.

17. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

presenting a broadcast of a television program to a viewer from a programming service provider to a home entertainment system;

receiving viewer characteristic information about the viewer from the viewer at a programming guide server;

generating ratings at the programming guide server based at least in part on viewer feedback to the broadcasts by the programming guide server from other viewers;

cross-referencing the viewer characteristics received from the viewer to characteristics of other viewers, so that for each characteristic that the viewer has in common with another viewer, the rating for that other viewer is counted once, so ratings of other viewers with more characteristics in common with the viewer will be counted more than ratings of other viewers with less characteristics in common with the viewer;

assembling a list of available broadcasts for the viewer;

ranking the available broadcasts based on the received viewer characteristics and the cross-referenced ratings; and

providing the ranked list of available broadcasts and the cross-referenced ~~to the viewer ratings of other television program the broadcasts from the programming guide server to the viewer at the home entertainment system based at least in part on received viewer feedback to the other broadcasts from other viewers, the ratings being generated by cross-referencing the viewer characteristics received from the viewer to characteristics of other viewers.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 17 wherein the instructions causing the machine to perform operations comprising.

wherein the received viewer characteristic information comprises ratings categories and wherein cross-referencing comprises using a weighted average of ratings for ratings categories that match the viewer's ratings categories.

19. (Original) The medium of claim 17 wherein the instructions causing the machine to perform operations comprising generating a rating further comprise instructions causing the machine to perform operations comprising generating a rating using viewer characteristic information to generate separate ratings for different categories of viewers.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An entertainment system controller comprising:
a storage medium to store a questionnaire regarding a broadcast that is presented to a viewer on a display device;

control circuitry to provide a feedback questionnaire to the viewer;

a viewer interface to receive feedback to the broadcast from the viewer based on the feedback questionnaire and to receive viewer characteristic information about the viewer from the viewer; and

a communications interface to provide the feedback to the broadcast and the viewer characteristics from the viewer to a server system and to receive a ranked list of available broadcasts and cross referenced ratings from the server system ~~regarding other available broadcasts based on viewer feedback from other viewers, the ratings indicating a likelihood of interest in the available broadcasts for the viewer~~, the ratings being generated by cross-referencing the viewer characteristics received from the viewer to characteristics of other viewers, so that for each characteristic that the viewer has in common with another viewer, the rating for that other viewer is counted once, so ratings of other viewers with more characteristics in common with the viewer will be counted more than ratings of other viewers with less characteristics in common with the viewer,

the rankings being based on the provided viewer characteristics and the cross-referenced ratings,

wherein the control circuitry further provides the ranked list of available broadcasts and cross-referenced ratings regarding other available broadcasts to the viewer.

22. (Original) The entertainment system controller of claim 21 wherein the control circuitry retrieves the questionnaire from the storage medium in response to a request from the viewer.

23. (Original) The entertainment system controller of claim 21 wherein the communications interface comprises at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, internet, cable television line, twisted pair line, fiber optic line, or radio frequency communications interface.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The entertainment system controller of claim 21 further comprising a register containing information regarding the entertainment system of the viewer and wherein the communications interface provides hardware capabilities information from the register to the server system along with the viewer feedback.

26. (Currently Amended) The entertainment system controller of claim 25 wherein the ranked list is further based on the provided hardware capabilities information claim 21 further comprising a storage medium to store information regarding available broadcasts and wherein the control circuitry

assembles a list of available broadcasts using viewer characteristic information for a selected viewer;

ranks the available broadcasts in the list based on the rating for each respective broadcast; and

presents a programming guide showing the ranked list to the viewer.

27. (Currently Amended) An entertainment server system comprising:

a communications interface to receive viewer feedback to a broadcast from a plurality of different viewers of the broadcast and to receive viewer characteristic information about the viewer from the viewer; and

a processor to generate a rating of the broadcast based at least in part on the received viewer feedback to the broadcast, the rating indicating a likelihood of interest in the first broadcast for potential subsequent viewers the ratings being generated by cross-referencing the viewer characteristics received from the viewer to characteristics of other viewers, so that for each characteristic that the viewer has in common with another viewer, the rating for that other viewer is counted once, so ratings of other viewers with more characteristics in common with the viewer will be counted more than ratings of other viewers with less characteristics in common with the viewer, the processor further assembling a list of available broadcasts for viewers and ranking the available broadcasts based on the received viewer characteristic and the cross-referenced ratings, wherein

the communications interface provides a programming guide showing the ranked list and the rating of the broadcast to viewer entertainment systems for display to potential subsequent viewers of the broadcast, the potential subsequent viewers including the plurality of different viewers of the broadcast.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 further comprising a programming guide server to provide a programming guide to the viewer entertainment

systems through the communications interface, the broadcasts of the programming guide being associated with a rating.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the communications interface receives hardware capabilities ~~viewer characteristic~~ information along with the viewer feedback and wherein the control circuitry generates a rating using the hardware capabilities ~~viewer characteristic~~ information to generate separate ratings for different hardware capabilities ~~categories of viewers~~.

30. (Canceled)